



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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SADC Official on Need for Financial Integration

*MB1406191195 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1847 GMT 14 Jun 95*

[Report by Sean Feely]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris June 14 SAPA — South Africa's aim in co-ordinating the Southern African Development Community's [SADC] financial and investment sector would be to promote vibrant and efficient regional financial markets, Finance Department Deputy Director General Maria Ramos said in Paris on Wednesday [14 June].

Addressing a European Union/SADC seminar on southern African integration, Ms Ramos stressed this effort was vital to underpin economic growth, as well as to strengthen the region's status in the global economy. "Financial integration must provide the framework and mechanisms through which growth and development in the real economic sector takes place," she said.

Ms Ramos was elaborating on how South Africa, which joined SADC late last year, expected to run the organisation's finance portfolio. South Africa was given the responsibility of co-ordinating the financial and investment integration of SADC member states at the SADC's annual donor conference earlier this year.

The South African Cabinet accepted this responsibility in May, but has yet to outline its approach. Ms Ramos fleshed out the thinking on that approach, but underscored the necessity for SADC member countries to jointly formulate a vision.

SADC would have to focus on developing liquid financial markets with global standards of regulation and supervision. "We need this to ensure we are able to attract surplus capital to our region for investment, as well as giving foreign investors security," Ms Ramos said. "We're only at the very beginning of this process. A very important first phase would be exchanging ideas and agreeing on a programme of co-operation to get our internal markets moving...and putting together the institutions for this."

SADC Executive Secretary Kaire Mbuende said the development of the sector reflected the community's desire to cut its dependence on foreign grants and loans, which made up 80 percent of its current budget. In view of the changing global situation, the SADC could not base its programme of integration and co-operation on foreign aid. "We have got to go out and mobilise capital

on the international markets and channel it through our institutions for investment."

SADC finance ministers would meet in July to formulate terms of reference for the finance sector and a draft policy and strategy document.

Ms Ramos said it was important to improve financial flows between member countries, as this was vital for facilitating trade, investment and tourism. To achieve this, financial mechanisms and instruments would have to be investigated which could include an improved currency convertibility system in southern Africa.

Nine SADC Nations Seek \$270 Million Drought Aid

*MB1606110295 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1026 GMT 16 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Harare June 16 SAPA — Nine Southern African Development Community [SADC] nations go to Geneva on Tuesday [13 June] to appeal to western donor nations for U.S. 270 million [dollars] in drought aid.

Drought in Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe is forecast to slash food production by 35 per cent.

South Africa, which says it has sufficient food, and Tanzania, which had good rains, are not joining the appeal. Donor countries are to be asked for 320,000 [metric] tons of grain worth U.S.91 million to avert starvation, but an important thrust of the appeal is to help the region fend for itself and loosen its dependence on donor aid.

A further U.S.82 million is wanted for seed, fertilisers, hoes and livestock, and U.S.26 million for water and sanitation, mostly to drill boreholes and build reservoirs. Donors are to be asked for U.S.45 million to buy and distribute a wide range of foods, including edible oils and protein-rich beans.

Another U.S.15 million is wanted for health projects, mainly to supply clinics with drugs to treat an expected upsurge in drought-related diseases like pellagra and diarrhoea.

About U.S.12 million is wanted for distributing relief supplies and other relief measures.

SADC's last appeal was after the catastrophic drought of 1991/92, when it asked for U.S.965 million.

Burundi**Radio Reports Attack on U.S. Envoy, OAU**

EA1506112295 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 0430 GMT 15 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A convoy carrying the Burundian minister of external relations; the OAU secretary general's special representative to Burundi, Ambassador Leandre Bassole; and the United States ambassador to Burundi, [Robert Krueger], which was travelling in Cibitoke Province yesterday fell into an ambush, which was probably laid by armed gangs who have been active in the region in the last few days.

The incident occurred at exactly 1630 GMT on the outskirts of Mabai Commune, [near the Rwandan border] which is about 60 km north of Bujumbura in Cibitoke Province.

According to information obtained from the military command of the OAU Observation Mission to Burundi, MIOB, the provisional toll is two dead: a Burkinabe military officer who died on the spot and a Burundian security agent working for MIOB, who died on his arrival at Bujumbura Hospital. Nine people were also wounded, including a MIOB military officer from Niger, five Burundian soldiers, two MIOB drivers, and an American journalist who was accompanying the U.S. ambassador.

The OAU secretary general's special representative, the Burundian minister of external affairs, and the U.S. ambassador, who were all in an armoured car, escaped from the ambush unhurt. They were going to spend the night at Kayanza, a town about 100 km of Bujumbura. They were supposed to return to Bujumbura today.

Ruling Party Condemns Attack

EA1506220095 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale du Burundi Radio in French 1800 GMT 15 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After the attack on the convoy of the OAU-secretary general's representative, the Frodebu [Ruling Front for Democracy in Burundi] Party issued a declaration, in which it strongly condemns the ignominious attack.

It expressed its condolences to the OAU secretary general's representative and the entire OAU observation mission. It sincerely hails those people who had the courage to visit this area where the population is suffering. It calls upon national and foreign figures not to be discouraged, and to continue to visit the area to discover the truth and give courage to those who are suffering. The Frodebu party once more demands that a joint investigation commission, made up of representatives from the government, the U.S. Embassy,

and [word indistinct] should be formed, so that the perpetrators of the attack can be arrested and brought to trial.

The interior ministry also issued a declaration, in which it condemned the criminal actions aimed at destabilizing the activities of the government and the international community in Burundi. The Ministry of Interior and Public Security calls upon the population of Cibitoke to dissociate themselves from the gangs of killers, so that the security forces can catch them and ensure once and for all that they cannot do anyone any harm. The ministry of interior takes the opportunity to present to the bereaved families its most sincere condolences. It also expresses its sympathy to the special representative of the OAU secretary general.

Congo**Leader of Pro-Government Militia Killed**

AB1506140295 Paris AFP in French 1445 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brazzaville, 14 Jun (AFP) — The leader of a group of about 10 militiamen belonging to the presidential group was killed last week by soldiers in a shoot-out at Dolisie, 400 km southwest of Brazzaville, it was learned from military sources today.

The group of militiamen had just looted several shops at Dolisie and were getting ready to share their booty at the town's station when soldiers intervened to get the stolen goods, according to the same source. A shoot-out ensued and the leader of the group of militiamen was killed on the spot.

These militiamen are part of the group of 500 government partisans who are currently undergoing military training in the Dolisie Region.

Rwanda**Official Resigns; Prime Minister Reacts**

EA1506135295 Kigali Radio Rwanda in English 0515 GMT 15 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following the quitting and running away of the permanent secretary [as heard] in the prime minister's office, Jean-Damascene Ntakirutimana, a press release from the prime minister's office states that the prime minister has not yet received the latter's official resignation letter, and that as a person in a responsible position he should not have sought solutions by running away from the problems he claims he has met.

The release further states that the prime minister learnt of the news from the press and that he was saddened

by the news. The release criticizes the manner in which Ntakirutimana quit, adding that it is lack of courage and perseverance for Rwandan social and political situation which is improving, stated the release.

Zaire

Over 100 Killed in Fighting With Rwandans

AB1506220395 Paris AFP in French
1438 GMT 15 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kinshasa, 15 Jun (AFP) — Over 100 persons, mainly of Zairian origin, have been killed in eastern Zaire following clashes with groups of former militiamen and members of the former Rwandan Armed Forces [RAF] since the beginning of June, according to a report by the official ZAIRIAN PRESS AGENCY.

According to a Goma-dated dispatch, "over 100 persons — all local inhabitants — were slaughtered in cold blood in June by former RAF soldiers and Interhamwe [former Republican National Movement for Democracy and Development militiamen] in the Walikale and Masisi districts."

The Walikale and Masisi districts — situated at less than 100 km west of Goma, the capital of Nord Kivu in eastern Zaire — where some 700,000 Rwandan refugees have assembled, have for a long time been the scene of ethnic clashes between old and new Rwandan refugees and the local Hunde and Nande tribesmen.

Reliable sources had earlier on 9 June reported 83 deaths in this region, a figure that had been confirmed by the government.

According to authorized sources, some military forces have been dispatched to the affected area to restore order.

Report on Relations Between Mobutu, Tshisekedi

AB1406163295 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
1830 GMT 13 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As the present government's term draws to a close, there is growing rapprochement

between President Mobutu Sese Seko and his arch rival Etienne Tshisekedi wa Mulumba. The opposition leader received the Zairian head of state's emissaries this morning, and their discussions are fuelling rumors in Kinshasa. Kamanda wa Kamanda reports from Kinshasa.

[Begin Kamanda recording] The opposition leader received President Mobutu's emissaries at his Limete residence today. In all, they held nearly 12 hours of talks, a good part of which took the form of direct talks between Tshisekedi and Madungu. The national television broadcast large extracts of the meeting, for the very first time since the beginning of contacts between Mobutu and Tshisekedi through intermediaries. This is a way of making official what appears henceforth as a move aimed at reaching a consensus in anticipation of 9 July, the constitutional end of the transition to democracy in Zaire, as elections will surely not be held for the establishment of the Third Republic's institutions.

With the probability of the extension of the transitional period, the High Council of the Republic-Transitional Parliament's bureau has already written to the Supreme Court asking for its opinion on this matter. For some, this is an opportunity for a return to legality, that is an opening for Tshisekedi to return to government business. Many in the radical opposition as well as the presidential movement believe this.

However, two questions must be asked. Has Mobutu really chosen the option of nationalism with the understanding that the only legitimacy worth having is the internal one? Has Tshisekedi finally understood, as a result of external isolation, that democratization means coming to terms, even with Mobutu, within a cohabitation logic? As both of them have nearly been abandoned by the western world, Mobutu and Tshisekedi have certainly realized, even though belatedly, that they have taken an entire nation hostage. This may be the end of an African palaver which has lasted for a long time. [end recording]

Somalia**Reportage on Recent SNA Conference, Elections****Aidid Elected President of 'Country'**

AB1506190095 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 15 Jun 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The rift in the Somali National Alliance, SNA, has deepened dangerously. This week, a meeting of the SNA elected Osman Atto as leader, sacking warlord General Farah Aidid. But if anybody thought Gen. Aidid would accept the verdict gracefully, they would have been well off the mark. Instead, the conference he is holding in Mogadishu has made him not only president of the SNA, but of the whole country, as Ali Musa Abdi reports in this fax from Mogadishu:

According to the conference chairman, Mr. (Kaniare), 15 out of 16 of Somalia's factions were at the conference, and they voted unanimously for Gen. Aidid, who was the only candidate. The one missing group, according to Mr. (Kaniare), was the Marehan subclan of Somalia's former President Siad Barre. After Gen. Aidid was sworn in, cheering crowds of his supporters waves green leaves and held up Aidid pictures and slogans and proclaimed that anarchy in Somalia was over.

Addressing the crowds, Gen. Aidid pledged to serve the people. I would not now be president, he said, if my people had not protected me during 4 and a half months of foreign attacks on me. He vowed to bring a speedy recovery to Somalia with the help of the Somali people and some friendly countries. He did not specify the countries from whom he was expecting help or recognition.

Envoy from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Egypt, and Sudan were at the conference as observers. Yesterday, Aidid's rival Osman Atto appealed to the OAU not to recognize any unilaterally declared government in Somalia. The Aidid conference was heavily guarded by technicals, which blocked all junctions leading to the SNA headquarters. Most of the militiamen were wearing blue jeans and carrying AK-47 rifles.

[London BBC World Service in English at 1705 GMT on 15 June adds the following: "Ali Mahdi Mohamed, whose forces control the northern half of Mogadishu, this afternoon dismissed Aidid's government as a comedy and a daydream. He said, and I quote, someone who represents less than 2 percent of the Somali people cannot call a national conference, let alone set up a government.

["The outcome of this national conference, he said, is the work of a power maniac."]

Local Radio Issues Report

EA1506214395 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Great Somali People in Somalia
1700 GMT 15 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Delegates from the 15 political organizations attending a Somali reconciliation conference today unanimously elected Mr. Mohamed Farah Aidid president of the Republic of Somalia.

The conference, chaired by Mr. Mohamed Qanyareh Afrah, the chairman of the USC [United Somali Congress], also elected five vice presidents, namely Mr. Abdirahman Ahmed Ali, Mr. Mohamed Rageh Adan, Mr. Mohamed Nur Aliyow, Mr. Mohamed Farah Abdullei "Hasharow," and a fifth vice president from the USC of northern Mogadishu.

Afterwards, the chairmen of the 15 political organizations approved the appointments of the president and vice president at the conference. The chairmen have also presented the chairman of the conference with endorsement signatures of their respective organizations' supporters.

A charter, composed of (?30 points), which will be used to govern the Somali Republic, was endorsed.

Those who signed the charter are: Shaykh Jama Haji Hussein, the chairman of SAMO [Somali African Mukti Organization]; Hussein Farah Abdullei, the chairman of the SDA [Somali Democratic Alliance]; Mohamed Nur Aliyow, the chairman of the SDM-SNA [Somali Democratic Movement-Somali National Alliance]; Ahmed Mohamoud Ato of the SNDU [Somali National Democratic Union]; Abdirahman Ahmed Ali, the chairman of the SNM [Somali National Movement]; Omar Mungani Aways, the chairman of the (?NDU) [?National Democratic Union]; Abdullei Ahmed Hashi, the chairman of the SPM-SNA [Somali Patriotic Movement-Somali National Alliance]; Mohamed Haji Adan of the SSDF [Somali Salvation Democratic Front]; 'Abd-al-Aziz Shaykh Yusuf, the chairman of the SSNM [Southern Somali National Movement]; Mohamed Farah Aidid, the chairman of the USC-SNA; Mohamed Qanrareh Afrah, the chairman of the USC; Abdirahman Dualeh Ali, the chairman of the USF [United Somali Front]; Hassan Haji Omar Ami for USP [United Somali Party]; Dr. Yusuf Ali Yusuf, the chairman of the SDM-Asalow [Somali Democratic Movement-Original]; and Ugas Barre Ugas Gedi, the chairman of the SOM [Somali Patriotic Movement]. The new leaders were sworn in by Shaykh Mohamed Abdullei Ahmed.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohamed Farah Aidid, the new president of the Somali Republic, first thanked the delegates for the confidence they had shown him, and pledged that he would do his level best to do everything to prevent their confidence from going to waste. Mr. Aidid referred to the series of struggles by the Somali people to defend their country and religion, during which the fascists [words indistinct] were defeated through the grace of God.

President Aidid said history would judge those who created the problems which occurred in the country, pointing out that documents and other evidence are available to attest to this. He said history would also remember those who had stood up to save their country from the conspiracies of colonialists and their lackeys. He prayed that God would grant rest to the souls of the departed victims.

The president thanked the countries which played a part in finding a solution to the Somali problems, and in objecting to attacks by foreigners on the Somali people.

He finally promised that he would uphold the charter, which could be used to govern the country for a three-year period. He said his rule would be based on justice, cooperation, confidence, brotherhood, and mutual respect. He said he will constantly safeguard the unity of the Somali people.

Speaking on behalf of the vice presidents, Mr. Abdirahman Ahmed Ali, the vice president of the Somali Republic, promised that they would serve the people tirelessly and with justice. He called on the Somali people to support them in the discharge of their responsibilities. He said the new government is ready to base its work on the interests of the public, adding that it was important to give the government advice on any mistakes that might crop up.

On the war in the northern regions, the vice president said the war was between SNM supporters, who want to preserve Somali unity, and a group led by Mohamed Ibrahim Egal which had vested interests. The ceremony was opened with Koranic verses, read by Shaykh 'Abdal-Razaq Yusuf Adan, the chairman of the prophet's traditions and Muslim community, who spoke on the vital importance of adhering to Islamic teachings. Prayers were also said by Shaykh Yusuf Turabi, while national singers performed songs.

Finally, the ceremony was addressed by Mr. Mohamed Qanrareh Afrah, the chairman of the conference, who

spoke on the proceedings of the conference from the beginning to the end. He said the method used in the deliberations and the subsequent elections of the leaders was democratic. He said the spirit of the charter was wide-ranging. The ceremony was concluded in an atmosphere of happiness.

Osman Atto Urges Citizens To 'Undermine' Aidid

*AB1606105595 Paris AFP in English
1030 GMT 16 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Mogadishu, June 16 (AFP) — Rival warlords vied for support in Mogadishu Friday [16 June], with chanting supporters of General Mohamed Farah Aidid assembling at the October 21 parade ground and Osman Ali "Ato" [Atto] calling on Somalis to undermine him.

Aidid's supporters were celebrating the general's election Thursday by a conference of his allies as "interim president" of this lawless Horn of Africa nation, which has been without a government since the overthrow of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991.

Osman Ato, who ousted Aidid Sunday as chairman of the United Somalia Congress/Somali National Alliance, called on Somalis to foil him "by all possible means". "Somalis should react against every move that ignites hostility," he told reporters.

Osman Ato promised a "national reconciliation conference" soon. He appealed to all countries not to recognise Aidid as president or provide him any material or political support. "Any attempt to extend support to General Aidid will be considered as participation in the civil war in Somalia," he warned.

A long-time friend and ally of Aidid, Colonel Abdulahi Yussuf Ahmed, chairman of the Somali Salvation Democratic Front, meanwhile abandoned the general, describing his "election" as a setback to peace efforts. [passage omitted]

North Mogadishu strongman Ali Mahdi Mohamed, who also styles himself "interim president" of Somalia, Thursday described Aidid's assumption of the post as "a comedy and a daydream", and said he would never recognise his government.

Aidid's supporters announced they had elected five "vice presidents" but announced the names of only four. The fifth was suspected to be Ali Mahdi, but analysts said he was certain to refuse the nomination.

Armscor Cannot Pay U.S. 'Sanctions-Busting' Fine
MB1506163695 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1627 GMT 15 Jun 95

[Report by Hannes de Wet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria June 14 SAPA — Armscor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] cannot pay the R43 million [rands] fine which may be required to settle a dispute with the United States over a sanctions-busting court case and taxpayers will probably have to foot the bill, government sources said on Thursday [15 June].

"Armscor does not have the money for a big fine and will have to look to the government for help. The Americans would in effect be penalising the new democratic government for the sins of the previous one," sources said. Armscor's net income in the past financial year was only R5 million, according to its annual report released in Pretoria earlier this month. Asked where the arms acquisition agency would find the money to pay an admission of guilt fine of R43.8 million, an Armscor spokesman said on Wednesday: "That is a very good question. I will try to find out." By Thursday afternoon he had not yet supplied an answer.

South African commercial arms supplier Denel said it would not help Armscor pay the fine. Denel was not implicated and was not liable for any penalties, spokesman Paul Holtzhausen said from the Paris Air Show in France. "We are wrongly regarded as an extension of Armscor. The Kentron division of Denel is not the Kentron which was affiliated to Armscor in the 1980's," he said. Denel could benefit directly from a settlement of the court case, which prompted the U.S. to maintain arms trade restrictions on South Africa after the lifting of the international arms embargo last year. In its annual report, released last week, Denel said the restrictions "also negatively affects Denel's trade with other countries".

Armscor, its then affiliate Kentron and seven South Africans were in 1991 indicted by a Philadelphia grand jury for breaking U.S. arms export regulations. Negotiations to settle the dispute recently resumed. Foreign Affairs Director-General Rusty Evans on Tuesday told reporters in Pretoria a plea bargain agreement which could involve admission of guilt fines of R43.8 million would be put to the prosecutors in Philadelphia within weeks. Officials close to the negotiations on Wednesday said Armscor had agreed in principle to pay a fine, but the amount was still being negotiated.

Another outstanding issue was whether the accused would also be exempted from prosecution in other U.S. states, which was not bound to the outcome of the

Philadelphia court case. They added the involvement in the case of U.S. company International Signal Control [ISC] and one of its senior officials, Claude Ivy, was being treated as a separate issue. ISC would have to pay its own fine. "They are being indicted at the moment. The court wants to put Mr Ivy behind bars and is hoping to get the seven South Africans to testify for the state."

The officials said a settlement would not automatically pave the way for resumption of arms trade between the U.S. and South Africa. "The moment a settlement is reached, a statutory restriction kicks into effect, debarring arms deals until the U.S. is satisfied with South Africa's arms export control measures." Officials said this process could take a few years. A possible way around was for the U.S. to handle with arms deals with South Africa on a case-by-case basis in the interim, officials said.

A second investigation against South African companies Barlow and Fuchs, also for contravening U.S. export regulations, was continuing. "Should they not co-operate with the prosecutors, they would also be indicted," officials said.

Sinn Fein's Adams Identifies With ANC Struggle
MB1406175095 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network
in English 1600 GMT 14 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Northern Ireland's Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has arrived in South Africa. He said his mission was to learn what he could do about the often bumpy road to democracy. Estelle Pienaar reports:

[Begin recording] [Pienaar] The Northern Irish liberation struggle has resulted in a quarter-century of terror and bloodshed. Recently Britain and the Northern Irish Government agreed to start negotiating a peace settlement. Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and his delegation now want to learn the lesson South African politicians learned from the multiparty negotiations which led to the adoption of the interim Constitution and the April 94 election. However, a meeting with the Inkatha Freedom Party and its leadership is not on Mr. Adams' agenda.

[Adams] No we haven't been kept from anyone. There's a different experience I think. We would identify in many ways with the struggle of the ANC.

[Pienaar] The Sinn Fein delegation will be in South Africa for eight days, and it won't be all work and no play. Mr. Adams will attend the rugby World Cup match between South Africa and France at King's Park in Durban on Saturday [17 June]. [end recording]

Sinn Fein May Testify in Weapons Case

*MB1506162695 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1547 GMT 15 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town June 15 SAPA — Sinn Fein may give evidence before the Cameron Commission on arms shipments from South Africa to Ulster loyalist forces in 1988, the organisation's President Gerry Adams said on Thursday [15 June].

The weapons, including RPG-7 rocket launchers, hand grenades and AKM assault rifles, had caused the deaths of 200 people — most of them innocent bystanders, he told a parliamentary foreign affairs committee here. Some of the weapons had also been used in an assault on his family home. At a press conference he said he hoped to make an announcement on Sinn Fein's submission to the Cameron Commission before next Wednesday. "We are investigating making the submission and have consulted our lawyers here."

Evidence about the Armscor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] weapons shipment had been presented during the trial of a self-confessed British intelligence agent Brian Nelson who had infiltrated the Ulster Defence Association. Nelson, now serving a jail sentence, had negotiated the arms deal with the full knowledge of British intelligence, Mr Adams said. "The weapons landed in northern Ireland in 1988 and were used to equip loyalist death squads. Over 200 people died in two years, mostly innocent Catholics, including women and children."

Mandela Needs 'Rest', Will Not Attend OAU Summit

*MB1506191295 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1903 GMT 15 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town June 15 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela has asked Deputy President Thabo Mbeki to replace him at the June 26 to 28 leaders' summit of the Organisation of African Unity in Addis Ababa, the president's office confirmed on Thursday [15 June].

Spokesman Parks Mankahlana said Mr Mandela, who turns 77 on July 18, needed to rest before his state visit to Japan on July 1. "It would be unfair for him to do all these trips in such a short space of time. We would have to leave here on June 26 for Addis Ababa, return on June 29 and fly out again on July 1. That would be absolute madness."

Mr Mandela is due to stay six days in Japan before going on to Korea where he will spend a further two days before wrapping up his trip on July 8. Mr Mankahlana said he was sure Mr Mbeki, as an experienced diplomat

and a man of high standing in Africa, would be well received at the summit.

Future of Satellite Television Discussed

*MB1506145795 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
15 Jun 95 p 9*

[Report by Michael Sparks]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South African television viewers are already getting their first taste of satellite television, and they could be choosing programmes from four or five different satellite options within a year, according to Steve Shaver, the managing director of Echostar, Europe.

Each new satellite will increase the number of new programmes available, he said at a joint Echostar/Aerial Empire press briefing.

Echostar currently provides programming, but by the end of the year will also own and operate a satellite of its own. Aerial Empire is a local installer of hardware.

Most South Africans are familiar with Multi-Choice PanAmSat-4 (PAS-4) satellite which is scheduled for launch at the end of August, and should be operative by mid-October, and the Intelsat 704 which began beaming down test signals from the African Satellite Entertainment Corporation last week.

But other satellites could soon be hovering 36,000km above the equator, one of them the Russian GALs I satellite.

Shaver added that South Africa would be in the unique position of having two technology streams side-by-side, with the cheaper analogue technology operating from some satellites while others would provide digital signals.

This would make this country the second one after America to use digital once PAS-4 launches.

PAS-4 will have four analogue channels which will effectively be the three current SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] channels, and M-Net. The satellite technology will enable people throughout the country to receive all four channels.

Currently TV1, which has the highest audience penetration in the country, reaches just over 70% of the population.

The technology which enables viewers to receive the analogue signal is significantly cheaper, retailing for about R1,800 [rands], which includes the cost of installing the 90cm dish, and the receiver.

The digital receiver will cost more than double that, but those who want to convert from analogue to digital will be able to use the same dish — the cheapest part of the setup.

72 Percent Registered for November Elections

*MB1506142995 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1417 GMT 15 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg June 15 SAPA — Ar. estimated 72.51 per cent of eligible voters have applied for registration for the November local elections, according to the latest statistics of the Local Government Elections Task Group, released on Thursday [15 June].

Although registration officially ended on June 5, many transitional authorities had yet to finalise their figures, the group said. Provincial figures show the number of those registered increased by at least a quarter between April 28 and June 5.

Western Province remained ahead with 86.20 per cent, with Northern Cape on 80.92 per cent and Free State on 74.97 per cent. KwaZulu/Natal was bottom of the list with 62.69 per cent. The fastest rate of increase was in Northern Province where registrations rose from 65.45 per cent to 74.49 per cent. Northwest had the highest urban ratio of 83.98 per cent and Gauteng the highest non-urban ratio of 90.60 per cent. The Klerksdorp area had by far the fewest registered voters — 3,335 of a potential 91,919, or 3.63 per cent. Other areas with single-digit registration ratios were Lady Frere and King William's Town in the Eastern Cape, with 5.38 per cent and 7.21 per cent respectively.

South African Press Review for 16 Jun

MB1606105895

[FBIS Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

ANC Imposing Will on Others — As if to confirm that the political honeymoon "is over," Deputy President F. W. de Klerk this week "made a scathing attack on the ANC at a political rally in Lenasia," notes the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 15 June. He "accused the ANC of being soft on crime, depending on who the criminals were. He claimed the ANC's brand of affirmative action was inverted racism biased against Whites, Indians and Coloureds. And he condemned President Mandela's support of COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] and its mass action." THE CITIZEN believes that as the local elections draw near "we can expect strong attacks by both the ANC and NP [National Party] on each other with the IFP joining in." However, THE CITIZEN is concerned by the "lack of compromise over major issues and the introduction of legislation or the issuing of proclamations to change matters." This is "an exercise in naked power that imposes the ANC's will on the others. It should be abandoned before it causes great harm."

CAPE TIMES

Job Creation Most Urgent Need of Country — Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English on 14 June in a page 6 editorial is concerned by the unemployment figures released by the city planner's office indicating that "60% of the unemployed of the Greater Cape Town area are under 30 years of age." The statistics "bring home forcibly the need for this country to get its priorities right. The most urgent need is for jobs, jobs and more jobs."

Angola

Jonas Savimbi May Accept Vice Presidency

*LD1506155095 Paris Radio France International
in French 1230 GMT 15 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Jonas Savimbi is pursuing his international round of visits. During the past few hours he was in Benin, where he said that he would be willing to take up the post of vice president, if it were offered to him as a result of current negotiations. This is what he told our reporter, Jean-Luc Aplogan:

[Begin recording] [Savimbi] We accept that the war has lasted for too long — 30 years of war is too much. We now have to set aside our differences and focus exclusively on the overriding interests of the nation. We told President Dos Santos, in Lusaka on 9 May, that we are committed to the national delegation. But we never planned on becoming president. That is not the motive behind our struggle. Rather, we are fighting for the freedom and dignity of our people. I told him, you are the president, and I am going to follow you. I am going to work with you. The country needs to experience peace, and we need to give our people, too, the chance to live their lives as other people do. Our country is rich, and its children should be able to benefit from its wealth.

[Aplogan] Nonetheless, Jonas Savimbi, you refused the vice presidency that was proposed to you. In specific terms, what role do you hope to play? Will members of UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] be included in the government, and on what conditions?

[Savimbi] I have never refused anything. We are just now in the process of deciding, with President Dos Santos, what we will be doing together. [end recording]

MPLA To Make Decision 16 Jul

*MB1506142695 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network
in English 1400 GMT 15 Jun 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leader Jonas Savimbi says he would accept the Angolan vice presidency if it were offered to him in talks on a new government. Dr. Savimbi said he had told President Eduardo dos Santos that he regarded him as his president and that he would support him and was ready to work with him. He said that if in the division of posts he received the vice presidency he would take it and UNITA would accept the portfolios it was offered. The ruling MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] in Angola is to decide tomorrow whether or not to offer Dr. Savimbi a vice presidency.

'Major Breakthrough' Reported

*MB1606085395 London BBC World Service
in English 0600 GMT 16 Jun 95*

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There are signs emerging this morning that a major breakthrough has been made in Angola's long drawn out peace process. It is reported that a deal is being prepared that could result in UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] leader Jonas Savimbi being offered the post of vice president. Mr. Savimbi is quoted as saying that if he was offered the post, then he would accept. Our Luanda based reporter Chris Simpson told Piete Loewenstein what he knew of the proposed deal:

[Begin recording] [Simpson] It would appear that Jonas Savimbi has been offered the vice presidency by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and he is willing to take it, and is not clear to me whether any other vice presidential nominees are going forward. There have been suggestions in Luanda that the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] will have its own vice president, possibly party secretary general Lopo do Nascimento, but that is yet to be clarified.

[Loewenstein] Now, has there been a lot of preparation for this, because it certainly seems to have come out of the blue?

[Simpson] This has certainly been a big talking point in Angola for the past few weeks. I think since the Lusaka meeting on 6 May, UNITA and the government have been very coy about saying what was actually discussed between the two leaders then, but there has certainly been an awful lot of speculation about what job Dr. Savimbi really wants, and the vice presidency is the one that has been in the front of everybody's mind.

[Loewenstein] So, it is your understanding that a breakthrough came when the two leaders met on 6 May?

[Simpson] It is not clear, I mean, they have been in regular contact. Since then we know messages have been going from Luanda to Bailundo and backwards. I think certainly, what a senior diplomat told me the other day was that Savimbi's mood has changed remarkably from April onward. It seems that UNITA became a lot more flexible about the whole Lusaka agreement during that period, and Savimbi's flexibility has gradually asserted itself in recent weeks.

[Loewenstein] So, what is the next step?

[Simpson] We are all still very much waiting to know when Jonas Savimbi will come to Luanda. It was made very explicit in Lusaka that that was on the cards. The

next time that he would meet the president would be in the capital and UNITA made it very clear they want strong security guarantees before he arrives in Luanda, and [words indistinct] in the past, those have yet to be finalized.

[Loewenstein] What objections could people have to this, because on the surface it looks like a pretty fair arrangement for Savimbi to be the vice president?

[Simpson] I think within UNITA there may be some reservations. I think some UNITA supporters would rather have him as an opposition leader on the outside championing UNITA, preparing for fresh elections, and they resent the idea of Savimbi being co-opted by the MPLA, and I think within the government there are inevitably a lot of people who distrust him and don't relish the thought of working alongside him, but I think the pragmatists have won on this one. I think that President dos Santos [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Namibia

Nujuma Attends 'Secret' Angolan MPLA-FLEC Talks

MB1506200895 Windhoek DIE REPUBLIKEIN in Afrikaans 13 Jun 95 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Translated Text] At the same time a request was made for Namibian assistance in the Angolan peace process, secret high-level talks were held four days ago near Otiwarongo to assist the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] in gaining political control over the unresolved issue concerning the oil-rich Cabinda enclave, the heart of the Angolan economy.

In what is regarded at UN headquarters as a serious breach of confidence, the Namibian head of state, Sam Nujoma, and Foreign Minister Theo-Ben Gurirab were part of these clandestine talks with MPLA and FLEC [Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave] delegations.

The secret talks at the Mount Etjo private game farm near Otiwarongo between Nujoma and Gurirab on one side and the MPLA and FLEC delegations on the other took place hours before Nujoma's unexpected visit to South Africa for sensitive talks on "undisclosed issues of common interest" with Nelson Mandela.

In a surprise move, the talks about the Cabinda enclave were not mentioned at the full media conference addressed by Nujoma and Mandela after a meeting in Cape Town. At the media conference, Nujoma merely referred to humanitarian assistance to Angola.

No official confirmation could be obtained last night about the Mount Etjo agenda and the nature of decisions

taken at the talks, but according to informed sources at State House the talks mainly dealt with Angolan Government fears about continued demands by FLEC concerning secession and independence for the enclave.

According to these sources, the talks were aimed at negotiating an agreement between FLEC and the MPLA through which the MPLA would gain full control over the enclave before the establishment of the new government of national unity in Angola.

Cabinda now delivers approximately 500,000 barrels of oil daily, representing more than 80 percent of Angola's total oil production.

The 11-member MPLA delegation at the Mount Etjo talks was led by the secretary of the MPLA's Council of Ministers, Dr. Carlos Feijo, and Angolan Ambassador to Namibia Joao Garcia Bires. The delegation, comprising mainly high-level officers and members of the Angolan General Staff, also included the deputy defense minister, General Jose Pedro.

The seven-member FLEC delegation was led by Jose Luiz Sena and Victor George Gomez and also included movement military officials.

UNITA's [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] representative in New York, Dr. Marcos Samondo, expressed surprise about the secret talks on Namibian territory and emphasized that independence for the enclave and even power-sharing between the MPLA and FLEC is in contravention of the peace process in Angola, which is well under way at this stage.

According to Samondo, UNITA is aware of continued FLEC demands for independence and says the movement feels excluded from the peace process because UNITA and the MPLA are the two main role players.

"If your information about the talks is correct then it might mean that the MPLA now wants to give FLEC a piece of the cake in return for something else. In the spirit of the peace process it would be necessary for UNITA to also be part of the negotiations. Our view is that the Angolan issue should be finally resolved and then we can look at the Cabinda issue," says Samondo.

Replying to a question on the reasons for the MPLA government using Namibian territory for these talks, he said Namibia would not be as obvious or suspicious as Lisbon or Paris, for example. He added that the secrecy surrounding such talks in Namibia could be maintained because the country is not one of the role players in the Angolan peace process, and said the recent visit by Nujoma to Mandela is the first indication that the country could once again become a possible role player, especially as a key route for humanitarian aid.

New Law Forbids Traditional Leaders From Office
MB0906202395 Windhoek THE WINDHOEK
ADVERTISER in English 7 Jun 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Traditional leaders with political seats in the National Assembly will now definitely be forced to make a choice between their political and traditional roles following the passing of the Traditional Authorities Bill yesterday.

Prominent politicians to be affected by the new law are Deputy Prime Minister Hendrick Witbooi who is also a Nama traditional leader, Herero Paramount Chief Kualma Riruako and Damara King Justus Garoeb.

Chief Riruako and King Garoeb said the new legislation would not, by any means, force them to vacate either their political or traditional offices.

King Garoeb said he was elected as a traditional leader for the Damara speaking people and as leader of the UDF [United Democratic Front] and said the ultimate decision would have to lie with the very people who appointed him to his two positions.

"The Bill cannot force me to give up any of my roles. The Damara King's Council and the UDF party will have to decide," he said.

"If the President can wear his party's colours and still be President of the country and if trade unionists can be allowed to hold political office why should there be discrimination against traditional leaders?" he asked.

The UDF leader said the opposition had to accept the Bill for the sake of progress since they were the minority and would easily be out-voted by the majority SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] members.

Chief Riruako said a court interdict would be sought to block the implementation of the traditional authorities legislation.

"I am not going to make any choice. The Bill has taken away the rights of the traditional leaders and therefore we are forced to have a court interdict against this

Bill," he said, adding that the legislation was politically motivated and was nothing but an insult to tradition.

During the reconsideration of the Bill yesterday, which was making its way back to the National Assembly from the National Council for the final say, the Upper House accepted the minor technical amendments made by the National Council. Chief Riruako, King Garoeb and Nama traditional leader, Mr Daniel Luipert registered their disagreement.

Mr Luipert said while he was in agreement with the principle behind the traditional authorities legislation, he disagreed with the contents of the Bill and rejected all the amendments made by the National Council.

The Herero Paramount Chief maintained that forcing a traditional leader, who is also a politician, to make a choice between his political career and his traditional role would be disqualifying an individual from his birthright. Responding to queries on titles of traditional leaders under the new legislation, the Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing, Dr Libertine Amathila said since different communities in Namibia had different titles for their traditional leaders, the new law would seek to introduce a unified titling system. The new hierarchy of traditional authority would be the chief at the top, followed by a senior traditional councillor and councillors.

"We are no longer going to have kings in Namibia because Namibia is a republic and not a kingdom," she said. Defending the new legislation after the official parliamentary deliberations yesterday, Dr Amathila said it was not government's intention to take away the birthright of politicians born in royal families.

"We are not taking away their birthright. All we are saying is that they should appoint other people to act in their traditional positions," she said.

Although she could not say how long, Dr Amathila said the affected members of the National Assembly will have a "limited" period to make their decisions.

Cote D'Ivoire**Subprefect Details Border Attack From Liberia**

AB1506171095 Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaine Nationale-Une Network in French 0700 GMT 15 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the murderous happenings of 13 June in Tai, on the border with Liberia, Defense Minister Leon Konan Koffi and Generals Guei and Tanny immediately went to the spot to observe the situation in that area. According to Mr. Borge Ziadre, the Guiglo subprefect, who received them, these inter-Liberian clashes on Ivorian territory have claimed 10 lives on the Ivorian side, and the same number of casualties among the rebels. In addition, there were many wounded among the people of Tai, and the subprefect for the locality was still missing as of 13 June. What were the circumstances surrounding this border incident? Our reporter, Jean-Pierre Mea, recorded the accounting of events, as given by Subprefect Ziadre:

[Begin Ziadre recording] At 1400, we received information that a group of Liberian rebels had infiltrated Ivorian territory through the village of Daobli. Prior to this, some Liberian Peace Council [LPC] and National Patriotic Front of Liberia [NPFL] soldiers had already been fighting that morning on Liberian territory, in the village of Tembo, which we can see from our side of the bank of the Cavally River — meaning that it is not very far from our country. A month ago, LPC fighters dislodged Taylor's men from the Liberian military camp of Tembo, and Taylor finally sent reinforcements to flush out the LPC elements. Those elements fought fiercely. There were a lot of people on the ground, and it appears there were very bloody clashes just across the border. The LPC fighters fled, either by raft or by swimming, over to Ivorian territory, in order to hide from their enemies. However, Taylor's fighters did not stop at the border separating us, that is to say, at the banks of the Cavally River. They chased their enemies into our territory. As the two factions fought, those fleeing fired shots to cover their flight, and those chasing them shot back. The fighters then ran through the Ivorian village of Daobli — which is the first locality you encounter when you leave Liberian territory — then Pona and, still running and shooting, they finally arrived in Tai.

When they arrived in Tai, [words indistinct]. According to the locals there, these fighters already know our territory very well. When the security forces tried to intervene to tell them to return to Liberia to fight, it appears they broke up into three groups. One group attacked the Gendarmerie Brigade and took away their radio communications set; another group went to the customs office, where they took the radio communications set, as well

as weapons; and the last group went to the Cote d'Ivoire National Armed Forces Base [FANCI], the offices of the FANCI command post, and took away their radio communications set. They succeeded: We completely lost contact with Tai at 1700 yesterday. According to the reports we received, fighting stopped at around 1730 yesterday.

Everyone from Tai has fled into the bushes, and so have the LPC fighters who were being chased. There are no Ivorians and no fighters left in Tai — fighting stopped yesterday at 1730. When we took stock of the casualties from these clashes, we were told yesterday that 7 people had been killed; but today, with calm having returned, the gendarmerie military authorities were able to make a proper count of casualties, and they informed us that 20 people had been killed. Ten Ivorians were killed: two women, three customs officials — including the head of the customs post — some civilians, and a UNHCR worker, who was in the supplies store. Ten Liberian rebels were also killed. [end recording]

Minister: 6 Nationals Killed

AB1406174295 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 14 Jun 95 pp 1, 19

[Article by Alfred Dan Moussa: "Liberia-Cote d'Ivoire Border: Six Ivorians Killed" — first paragraph is FRATERNITE MATIN introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Three customs officers killed, two civilians killed, one gendarme killed, two soldiers wounded. This is the heavy toll disclosed in a communiqué released to FRATERNITE MATIN last night at 22h05 by Defense Minister Leon Konan Koffi. How did this happen to Ivorians at the Cote d'Ivoire-Liberia border near Tai?

"Two Liberian warring factions fighting on Liberian soil found themselves on Ivorian territory, and in an attempt to repel them, six Ivorians were killed, and two others wounded." This, at least, is what the defense minister explained shortly after 2200. He said he does not have all the information concerning the exact circumstances of the incident, and the identity of the victims.

As this article was going to the press, the gendarmes and soldiers stationed at the borders, after receiving some reinforcements, were still fighting the Liberian warring factions on Ivorian territory. "All measures have been taken to definitely and completely chase the feuding brothers from Ivorian soil," the defense minister said, regretting the communication difficulties between Tai and Abidjan.

This sad news comes five days after the reports on similar incidents that made the headlines in the 8 June

edition of LA VOIE newspaper, notably: "Macabre Discoveries in Tai; Ivorians Beheaded by Liberian rebels." In that article, LA VOIE added that "persistent and very concerning rumors have been circulating for some days now. In Tai, Liberian rebels suspected to belong to late President Samuel Doe's troops are killing Ivorian farmers settled in the border villages. The macabre proof is found here..." While the Ivorian authorities are awaiting further information on LA VOIE's report — FRATERNITE MATIN's 10 June edition page 16 — a heavier death toll has now been published: Six Ivorians killed and two wounded.

This is happening at a time when the leaders of some warring factions have visited Cote d'Ivoire, and claim to count on Ivorians and their president, His Excellency Henri Konan Bedie. "They said, according to Foreign Minister Amara Essy in an interview with FRATERNITE MATIN on 10 June, that they have nothing against Cote d'Ivoire, and that it is their desire to totally cooperate with our country..." But here we are. After the meeting between two of the warring factions — the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia [ULIMO] and the Liberia Peace Council [LPC] — the Ivorian authorities, and the head of state, bad news is reaching us from Tai. There are Ivorian victims, and yet "the only thing our country is seeking is to have peace in Liberia because this peace is also important not only for the Economic Community of West African States [ECOWAS], but also for Cote d'Ivoire.

"In Abuja, we made it known that no Liberian faction has the monopoly over relations with Cote d'Ivoire. We received Taylor because he requested a meeting." This is what the Ivorian foreign minister said. The Liberian leaders were received at their request; the head of state complied with their request. He received the ULIMO and LPC leaders. What should Cote d'Ivoire be blamed for?

What happened at the border was the last straw that broke the camel's back. We expect the head of state to take firm measures now. The Ivorian foreign minister already gave a hint of this after the failure of the ECOWAS heads of state summit on Liberia that was held in Abuja. In an interview granted to FRATERNITE MATIN on 20 May, he said: "The Liberian warlords will be banned from coming to Ivorian territory if the situation in Liberia continues to worsen."

A month later, the situation has continued to worsen and, above all, Ivorians are now becoming victims. Six deaths for people who are on a peace mission is too much, and enough is enough. Ivorians know how to remain calm, however. They know how to leave to their authorities the power to take the necessary measures.

Ghana

Minister Denies Airlifting Arms to Rwandans

AB1506190495 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English
1800 GMT 15 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Dr. Obed Asamoah, has denied reports that Ghana is involved in airlifting arms to rival factions in the Rwandan conflict. He told the GHANA NEWS AGENCY in Accra that the reports in some foreign media are a load of rubbish.

According to the reports, planes registered in Ghana, Nigeria, Ukraine, and Russia are carrying arms from Bulgaria and Albania to the former Rwandan Army and Hutu militias. Dr. Asamoah said the government is investigating the reports.

He said a plane, registered in Ghana or any other country, can operate outside the country where it is registered. Dr. Asamoah gave the assurance that Ghana, as a nation, is not involved in sending arms to any faction in Rwanda.

He believed the reports are a disinformation campaign by a rival faction in the conflict, to make it look as if Ghana is backing the other side. Ghana is among a number of countries contributing troops to a UN peacekeeping force to maintain peace in Rwanda.

Nigeria

Obasanjo, Yar'Adua Appear Before Military Court

AB1606093495 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
0730 GMT 16 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Olusegun Obasanjo, the former head of state, who has now become a well-known opponent of the Sani Abacha military junta, is to be tried in Nigeria. The regime has accused him for the third time of colluding with those allegedly involved in the March coup attempt. From Lagos, Tunde Fatunde reports:

[Begin Fatunde recording] According to concordant sources, Gen. Obasanjo, former head of state of Nigeria, and Gen. Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, his vice president at the time, appeared before the Lagos military court, which has been sitting in utmost secrecy at the Lagos garrison. The same sources say that the two key figures were led to the tribunal under military escort to answer charges alleging their involvement in the presumed coup attempt on 1 March.

Furthermore, Gen. Fred Chijuka, the Army spokesman, told journalists that those who would be found guilty of

this accusation of plotting and treason against the state, could appeal the verdict. However, he did not specify the appeal mechanism that could be used by the accused persons, since in Nigeria's military tradition, any verdict passed by a military tribunal cannot be appealed.

Meanwhile, Mr. Jinadu Bolahun, a judge of the Lagos Federal High Court, has ruled in favor of Mr. Johnson Esebor, who challenged the constitutionality and legitimacy of this military tribunal. The same judge ordered the keeper of the seals of the Federation to appear before him on 26 June to explain the legality of this military tribunal. [end recording]

Sierra Leone

Army Reportedly Retakes Tintonko From Rebels

AB1506205095 Paris AFP in English
1622 GMT 15 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Freetown, June 15 (AFP) — Sierra Leone Government forces said Thursday [15 June] they had regained control of a town just outside the country's second largest city after rebels seized it this week.

A senior commander in Bo, 170 kilometres (105 miles) east of the capital Freetown, said the Army was now back in control of neighbouring Tintonko, 10 kilometres (six miles) south of Bo.

He said several civilians were killed after rebels of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) took over Tintonko on Tuesday, and he denounced unspecified "atrocities" by the rebels.

State radio Thursday said rebels in Gerihun, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) east of Bo, had used the dead bodies of civilians to set up a road block on a main highway leading to the southeast. Gerihun also came under rebel attack this week.

One escapee from the area contacted by telephone said RUF rebels had also attacked a nearby displaced persons camp, setting fire to buildings and forcing residents to flee to safety in Bo.

He also said an estimated 40 people drowned in a river as they were trying to escape the RUF.

An upsurge in fighting since Christmas has swollen the population of Bo and its environs to over one million people, as people flee the countryside for the relative safety of the southern capital.

Sierra Leone's civil war began in the extreme southeast of the country in late March 1991. Around 10,000 people are estimated to have died in the fighting, which has helped ruin a country which ranks among the five poorest in the world.

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